

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A water soluble iron carbohydrate complex having a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 400,000, comprising the reaction product of:

- (a) an aqueous solution of an iron (III) salt and
- (b) an aqueous solution of the oxidation product of
 - (i) at least one maltodextrin and
 - (ii) an aqueous hypochlorite solution at an alkaline pH, wherein,

the at least one maltodextrin has a dextrose equivalent of between 5 and 20, and
wherein,

the dextrose equivalent of each individual maltodextrin is between 2 and 40.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A process for producing ~~the~~ a water soluble iron carbohydrate complex ~~of claim 1~~ having a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 400,000, comprising:

- (a) oxidizing at least one maltodextrin in an aqueous solution at an alkaline pH with
- (b) an aqueous hypochlorite solution to form an oxidized maltodextrin solution, and
- (c) contacting the oxidized maltodextrin solution with an aqueous solution of an iron (III) salt, wherein,

the at least one maltodextrin has a dextrose equivalent of between 5 and 20, and
wherein,

the dextrose equivalent of each individual maltodextrin is between 2 and 40.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the oxidation of the at least one maltodextrin is carried out in the presence of bromide ions.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The process of claim 2, wherein the iron (III) ~~chloride~~ salt is used as the iron (III) salt chloride.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein (c) contacting the aqueous solution of oxidized maltodextrin and the aqueous solution of the iron (III) salt is carried out at a pH of 2 or less to form a final solution, the process further comprising (d) raising the pH of the final solution to 5 to 12 by the addition of a base.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The process of claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 15 °C to the boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A medicament comprising an aqueous solution of the iron carbohydrate complex of claim 1.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The medicament of claim 7, wherein the medicament is formulated for parenteral or oral application.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): The process of claim 3, wherein the iron (III) chloride salt is used as the iron (III) salt chloride.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The process of claim 3, wherein (c) contacting the aqueous solution of oxidized maltodextrin and the aqueous solution of the iron (III) salt is carried out at a pH of 2 or less to form a final solution, the process further comprising (d) raising the pH of the final solution to 5 to 12 by the addition of a base.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The process of claim 4, wherein (c) contacting the aqueous solution of oxidized maltodextrin and the aqueous solution of the iron (III) salt is carried out at a pH of 2 or less to form a final solution, the process further comprising (d) raising the pH of the final solution to 5 to 12 by the addition of a base.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The process of claim 12, wherein (c) contacting the aqueous solution of oxidized maltodextrin and the aqueous solution of the iron (III) chloride is carried out at a pH of 2 or less to form a final solution, the process further comprising (d) raising the pH of the final solution to 5 to 12 by the addition of a base.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The process of claim 4, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 15 °C to the boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The process of claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 15 °C to the boiling point for 15 minutes up to several hours.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the iron carbohydrate complex has a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 350,000.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the iron carbohydrate complex has a weight average molecular weight (Mw) of 80,000 to 300,000.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 40 °C to 60 °C.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 50 °C to the solution boiling point.